



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	BES
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	26/09/2022 until 11/02/2022
Country (exchange)	Portugal
City (exchange)	Aveiro
University (exchange)	University of Aveiro
Faculty (exchange)	Department of Environment and Planning

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I think it is very interesting to live in different countries for a while. The exchange semester gave me a chance not only to learn about the daily lifestyle in Portugal and explore new places but also to experience a different university system.

What is the reason you chose for this country/university?

Originally, I was planning to go to another university, however, that did not work out. I chose Aveiro because I had visited Portugal before and I thought it would be very interesting to live there for a semester, and also, they offer courses that are relevant for my future plans and not available at the WUR.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

Do you have any tips to reach your exchange destination? (E.g. bus, train, etc.)

I was travelling from Porto airport. First, you have to go by metro from the airport to Trindade station (line E). Then you have to switch metro lines and go to Porto Campanha train station. There you will find a direct train to Aveiro. The train from Porto Campanha to Aveiro takes a bit more than 1h.

4. University and studying

Could you provide some general information about the followed courses?

	Course	ECTS	Short description of the contents	Appreciation of course: 1(low) – 5(high)	Remarks
1	Toxicology and Ecotoxicology	6	This course had theoretical and practical classes. In practical classes we performed ecotoxicology experiments, such as immobilization of Daphnia Magna.	4	This course had a mixed teaching language (Portuguese/English). This semester there were a few other international students, therefore, the teacher agreed to teach classes in English. The information in slides was also provided in English.
2	Biological pollution indicators	6	This course was about using algae and macroinvertebrates as indicators for water quality assessment. We had practical and theory classes. We learned to identify diatoms, macroinvertebrates, and to calculate some indices, and learn the contents of the Water Framework Directive.	4	This course had a mixed teaching language. One of the professors was teaching classes in English (but the slides were accessible in Portuguese only), and the other teacher was teaching in Portuguese, but the slides were accessible in English. The teacher who was teaching in Portuguese offered help to international students, so I had no problems with following this course.
3	Biology, Ecology and Conservation of the Open and Deep Sea	6	This course is about processes in the deep sea, ecology, and conservation legislations. We had theoretical and practical classes.	5	This course had a mixed teaching language. The slides were available only in Portuguese, but the teacher agreed to teach classes in English. I did not experience any problems with following the course.
4	Conversion of Conventional Energies	6	This course was about thermodynamic concepts (Carnot, Rankine cycles etc.)	1	The name of the course does not match the contents. We learned nothing about the conversion of the conventional energies. Instead, we learned about how conventional energy cycles work and had to make calculations about them.

5	Environmental Planning	6	This course was about environmental plans, for instance, we had to analyse a climate change plan of a specific city. The focus of the course is mainly on Portugal.	3	This course is entirely taught in English. In the first class you have to make a group and you work together for all assignments during the semester. Many international (and Erasmus) students are taking this course, so there is an international environment in classes.
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How is the study formalized? (E.g. study forms, academic level, examination, workload, lesson material)

Each course has 2 or 3 assignments before the winter break and 2 or 3 after the winter break. Some weeks are very stressful, but other weeks are ok. The assignments are group work presentations/ reports, individual reports, and exams.

For my courses, all study material was provided online via the learning platform. You did not have to buy anything.

What is the culture of the university? (E.g. How approachable are the lecturers, engagement with local students? What are the differences with the WUR?)

Lecturers are mostly very approachable and ready to help, provide clarifications for international students. The engagement with local students is also not difficult, since most courses have group works and you have a chance to work together with local students.

The main difference I noticed is that at the UA courses take place during the whole semester instead of only a few weeks (one period) as at the WUR, so students and professors can get to know each other better and their relationship is a bit more personal.

What does the university offer the student additionally? (E.g. Catering, sports facilities, laundry facilities?)

The university has a very good canteen. It is possible to get a soup, main course, fruit, and drink for 2,65 euros. The food is very good.

I did not use sports facilities, but I know they have a gym.

5.Housing-travelling-living

What are the possibilities for housing? (E.g. Availability to sign up for a room on campus, private rooms, rent rates?)

It is almost impossible to get a room in the dorms on campus. Most students have to find housing in the private sector. This is also a struggle since many people prefer to lease a

room to locals. I managed to find a room in a shared apartment with 3 other students. The rent was 250 euros per month.

What is the culture of the country like? (E.g. Differences with home, local cuisine, habits, manners?)

The people are more relaxed. For example, it is common for classes to start 10 min later.

Most people do not speak English, especially outside campus, therefore it is useful to learn basic Portuguese skills.

Could you give a general price indication of the place of residence compared to living in Wageningen?

In Portugal, I paid 250 euros per month and lived shared the apartment with 3 people. In Wageningen, I pay 20 euros more and live in a corridor with 7 people.

Could you give some information about public transport infrastructure? (E.g. Cost public transport card, taxi prices, how to travel to the university?)

The public transport is pretty cheap. The bus ticket to the beach costs 2,50 euros. The train ticket from Aveiro to Porto is 3,55 euros. The bus ticket to Lisbon is 15 euros.

Aveiro is not very big, students can easily reach the university by bike or by walking.

6. Free time

What are must-sees in the area? (E.g. nearby destinations, how do you prefer to travel, when to plan?)

Costa Nova- it is a coastal city. You can go for walks along the coast, go surfing or just relax at the beach.

You can also go to Porto, Lisbon, Sintra, Cascais and other cities that are a bit further away but worth visiting.

What does not appear in the travel guide, but is worth a visit?

The roof terrace of Forum shopping centre is a nice place for relaxation.

Do you have general tips and tricks about leisure time (E.g. recommendations for restaurants, going out?)

You will find a lot of cafes in the city centre.

100 montaditos and Património are very popular among students, and very cheap places for drinks/food.

7.Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

Some weeks the university was too stressful because I was not used to having so many assignments at the same time.

What was your best memory abroad?

Spending time at the beach. I was surfing for the first time in my life. And I enjoyed having picnics with my friends at the beach.

8. Contact details (optional)

Is the reader allowed to contact the writer?	yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Name/e-mail		